

Remarks

Entry of the foregoing amendments and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

At the outset, the undersigned would like to express appreciation to Examiner Ho for the time and attention extended during the interview conducted on March 23, 2005. During the interview, the currently pending independent claims were discussed in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,450,971 to Andrus et al. (the Andrus reference).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “an elongated body having a first end portion and a second end portion, a dilatable bladder incorporated with said elongated body between the first end portion of the elongated body and the second end portion of the elongated body, the dilatable bladder being adapted to dilate in a radially outward direction from said elongated body.” Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, the Andrus reference does not disclose a catheter assembly as claimed in independent claim 1. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over the Andrus reference.

Independent claim 57 has been amended to recite “an elongated body having a first end portion and a second end portion, a dilatable bladder coupled to said elongated body between the first end portion of the elongated body and the second end portion of the elongated body, the dilatable bladder being adapted to dilate in a radially outward direction from said elongated body.” Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, the Andrus reference does not disclose a catheter assembly as claimed in independent claim 57. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit

that independent claim 1 and the claims that depend therefrom are patentable over the Andrus reference.

Additionally, as discussed during the interview the Andrus reference and the claimed invention of the present application were owned by the same person or were subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person at the time that the present invention was conceived. Accordingly, under U.S.C. §103(c), the subject matter of the Andrus reference should not preclude patentability of the claimed invention. Thus, the subject matter of the Andrus reference cannot be combined with another reference to reject claims of this application.

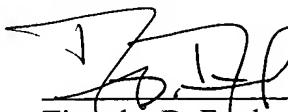
It is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

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